

In consideration of this proposal, AMS gathered information from government and industry sources.

Drained weight, although not a factor of quality in canned mushrooms, is very important in connection with the marketing of processed fruit and vegetable products. Drained weight indicates the amount of fruit and vegetable ingredient in relation to packing media and to some extent the degree to which a product may have disintegrated during processing and handling. Most U.S. standards for canned fruits and vegetables contain a recommended drained weight. Drained weight, when applicable, is a requirement in federal specifications and other purchase specifications or contracts. The USDA reports the range of drained weights on their certificates when there is a mandatory FDA requirement, such as for canned mushrooms. Although drained weight is an FDA mandatory requirement in canned mushrooms, buyers and sellers can establish their own specification of minimum drained weights that exceed the FDA.

Presently, the U.S. standard for canned mushrooms includes a recommended minimum drained weight of 62 percent of the water capacity, or for example, 68.0 ounces for the No. 10 can, while the FDA minimum is 61.3 ounces (56 percent) for this can size. The water capacity is determined according to the FDA method outlined in 21 CFR 130.12. The FDA established its current 56 percent minimum in rulemaking based upon a petition from the National Food Processors Association (NFPA) requesting that the drained weight required for mushrooms packed in larger cans be reduced because of the high incidence of bacterial spoilage in such containers. The FDA initiated rulemaking in a proposed rule (47 FR 26843; June 22, 1982). The NFPA attributed the problem to overfilling to meet the drained weight requirement. Therefore, the NFPA proposed to reduce the drained weight requirement for larger cans so that the ratio of mushrooms to water capacity of the container was not less than 56 percent. A final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on March 15, 1983 (48 FR 10812) and a **Federal Register** Notice confirming the effective dates was published on September 14, 1983 (48 FR 41155.)

The USDA published a notice in the **Federal Register**, on December 4, 1998 (63 FR 67040), proposing to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Mushrooms by lowering the recommended drained weight from 62

percent to 56 percent of the can capacity.

A 60 day comment period was provided for interested persons to send in comments on this recommended change to the Standards.

AMS received one comment that was opposed to the change in drained weight. The commenter stated that the change would result in a lack of uniformity in that there would be a larger number of pack sizes within the narrow range of 56 to 62 percent of the water capacity. They also stated that the change would require expensive changes in the manufacturing process, through new heat penetration studies, new labels, and new in-plant procedures resulting in a restructuring of the manufacturing process. And finally, the commenter felt that the marketing environment would become more confused as a result. AMS believes that the comments have merit and therefore has decided to withdraw the proposal and terminate the action.

In another matter, the commenter wanted a review of the current color standards for canned mushrooms. They stated that due to the extreme difficulty in achieving Grade A color in glass, that the minimum color classifications be reviewed.

Because this response is beyond the scope of the intended notice, USDA will review this discussion in another forum when more data is available. Interested parties are however encouraged to submit data to justify reviewing the minimum color requirements for canned mushrooms.

After reviewing and considering the comments received, the Agency has decided not to proceed with the action. Therefore, the notice published December 4, 1998 (64 FR 67040) is withdrawn.

Dated: March 18, 2002.

A.J. Yates,
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Withdrawal of the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The intended effect of this action is to comply with 36 CFR part 219 section 219.35(e) which directs that within 1 year of November 9, 2000, the

Regional Forester must withdraw the Regional Guide. When a Regional Guide is withdrawn, the Regional Forester must identify the decisions in the Regional Guide that are to be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system (36 CFR 200.4) or to one or more plans and give notice in the **Federal Register** of these actions.

DATES: This action will be effective April 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bradley J. Burmark, Forest Planner, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, 707-562-8950

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action withdraws the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide. None of the direction in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide will be transferred to a regional supplement of the Forest Service directive system or to forest plans. The direction in the Regional Guide is already in the forest plans, is obsolete, has been replaced by more recent direction, or is already present in other existing policies.

Dated: March 19, 2002.

Gilbert J. Espinosa,
Acting Regional Forester.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

[01-04-S1]

Designation for the Central Iowa (IA) Area

AGENCY: Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces designation of Central Iowa Grain Inspection Corporation to provide official services under the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart at 202-720-8525, e-mail janhart@gipsadc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1;